

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Pending Claims*

Claims 1-6, 9, 12-15, and 17-24 currently are pending. Claims 1-6, 9, and 23-24 are directed to microcapsules. Claims 12-15, and 17-21 are directed to a method for producing microcapsules. Claim 22 is directed to a method for rubber vulcanisation. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

*Amendments to the Claims*

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 10, namely that the shells together have a thickness between 30 and 100 nm. Support for this amendment can be found in original claim 10 and in the last full paragraph of page 7 of the specification. Claim 10 accordingly has been cancelled as superfluous. Claim 22 has been amended with respect to form to claim a method of rubber vulcanisation. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

*Summary of the Office Action*

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication in the Office Action that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-5, 9 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0165682 (Menting et al.). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Menting in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,623,079 (Johnson). Claims 12-15 and 17-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Menting in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,670,344 (Okada et al.).

*Discussion of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*

The Office Action has indicated that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been revised to recite the feature of claim 10, namely that the shells together have a thickness between 30 and 100 nm. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable since it recites the feature of claim 10. Since all of the other claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, all of the claims recite this feature, and the rejections are moot. Accordingly, the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

This Response respectfully is believed to have not raised any new issues. Claim 10 has already been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants believe that favorable action can be made by the Office without the need for any Advisory Action.

*Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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